

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 9-16 have been added. No claims have been withdrawn or canceled.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 appears at least at Figures 2 and 5 and ¶0055. Support for new claims 9-12 appears at least at Figures 2 and 5. Support for new claims 13-16 appears at least at Figures 4-5 and ¶0055.

No new matter has been added by this response.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully traverse and, for the following reasons, request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by US 4,364,098 to Hirota et al. ("Hirota").

To anticipate a claim, a reference must teach, expressly or inherently, each and every element required by the claim as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art. MPEP § 2131.

Claim 1 is directed to a rotary head drum apparatus with rotor-side switches that form circuits or short-circuits with the heads according to rotation position of the rotary drum. Claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, a rotary drum having a stator side and a rotor side; at least two heads oppositely disposed on the rotary drum; a switch positioned on the rotor side of the rotary drum, connected to the heads for selecting one head thereby forming a circuit and short-circuiting another head based on rotation position of the rotary drum; and a rotary transformer of one channel for transferring signals of the selected head, where the rotary transformer has a rotor side winding divided into two winding portions that are opposite to said two heads.

In contrast, Hirota is directed to a rotary head drum with *stator-side switches* that switch recording heads and reproducing heads *according to the recording or reproducing mode*. Hirota does not teach a rotary head drum with rotor-side switches,

as required by claim 1. Hirota does not teach a switch that switches heads according to the rotating position of the rotary drum, as required by claim 1.

Because Hirota does not teach each and every element as required by claim 1, such claim is not anticipated by the cited reference. The above argument applies equally to claim 1 and claims dependent thereon, such as claims 2-4. The above argument also applies equally to claims 5-8 to the extent such claims require, *inter alia*, the above described features.

Furthermore, dependent claims have additional patentable features.

For example, claims 9 and 11 require that the ratio of rotary transformers to heads is 1:2. In contrast, the rotary head drum of Hirota requires relatively more rotary transformers, such rotary head drum having a ratio of rotary transformers to heads of 1:1. Because Hirota fails to teach each and every requirement of claims 9 and 11, such claims are not anticipated by the cited reference.

As another example, claims 10 and 12 require the rotary head drum apparatus to have two rotary transformers and four heads. In contrast, the rotary head drum of Hirota has four rotary transformers and four heads (see Hirota, Figure 4). Because Hirota fails to teach each and every requirement of claims 10 and 12, such claims are not anticipated by the cited reference.

As another example, claims 13-14 require two switches positioned on the rotor side of the rotary drum. Hirota fails to teach two switches positioned on the rotor side of the rotary drum, and as such, does not anticipate claims 13-14.

As another example, claims 15-16 require the rotor side switch to form a circuit with one head and short-circuit another head when the rotary drum is rotated through an angle of about 180°. In contrast, the stator side switches of Hirota switch recording heads and reproducing heads according to the recording or reproducing mode. Because Hirota fails to teach each and every requirement of claims 15-16, such claims are not anticipated by the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and believes that the claims as presented represent allowable subject matter. If the Examiner desires, Applicant welcomes a telephone interview to expedite prosecution. Applicant believes there is no fee due at this time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

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